

## Minutes for Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting of October 19, 2016.

Board members present were Doug Greenfield, Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller and Ron Sender. Scott Smith and Phil Goff were absent. Also attending were Emily Snyder, Nat Strosberg, Maggie Stanley, and two COBWEB officers from the Arlington Police Department.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

\*Approval of the September minutes. The draft minutes were approved unanimously without amendments.

Arlington Center Safe Travel project. Nat told us that the street paving has begun as well as the construction of the Bikeway extension in Uncle Sam Park. The project should be completed by the end of November this year.

Bike counts on the Bikeway. Planning for next year. Nat told us that the total use of the Bikeway was up over the counts taken in July. The number of all modes of users was 2800 over the twelve hour period of the count. Nat also told us that he has been thinking about the utility of using automatic bicycle counters. This would allow us to collect counts over longer periods of time and more often. We discussed the various kinds of sensors and what they can count. Nat told us that Cambridge is using counters so we could learn something by reviewing their experience. Nat would like to submit a proposal to the planning department for purchase of a counter for next year. We decided to constitute a working group to discuss the various kinds of counters before one is ordered. Jack brought up the question of what the additional data would be used for and if it will be used at all.

Cops on Bikes With Education for Bicyclists (COBWEB). The officers brought up the problem of the Lake St./Bikeway crossing. We covered the history of this issue and what is currently being done about it. We informed them that the TAC is currently working on this issue. Emily told us that the stop sign at that intersection is currently obscured by trees.

Bikeway Anniversary Celebration. Christopher told us that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved the creation of a committee to plan the anniversary celebration. Jack would like to see the event evolve as a tri-town event including all three of the towns crossed by the Bikeway. Christopher suggested that Selectman Dan Dunn, who is very enthusiastic about the anniversary, should be asked to participate as a member of the committee. Nat will send out a notice asking for volunteers to serve. In any case, the BOS will approve the final committee.

Bike Repair Station. Christopher told us about the proposed bicycle repair station, sponsored by Whole Foods, to be installed on the Bikeway. The BOS has approved this installation which will be in the Uncle Sam Park next to the Bikeway. Jack asked who was going to install the station. Nat informed us that the Whole Foods donation includes the installation and that this installation has been approved by the Town.

Bikeway hours of operation. There has been some controversy in recent months about the idea that the hours of use of the Bikeway (currently closes at 9pm) are too restrictive. The Bikeway is an important commuting link from Alewife Station where the last train arrives after midnight. Nat will survey the stakeholders in town to determine if there is support for eliminating the restrictive hours of use. Stephan pointed out that the Bikeway is a vehicular right-of-way and they usually don't have hours.

Town Day Report. Christopher reported that we used the new ABAC tent without incident. In addition, we gave out free children's helmets and reflective vests for adults. The leftover helmets were donated to the Safe Routes to School organization. Christopher added that we sold the last T-shirt and he would like us to come up with some new ideas for fund-raising at future events.

2017 Winter Social. We need to decide on a program and a venue for the event. Christopher would like to hold it at the Common Ground Bar and Grill again because it worked well last year. Doug suggested that the program could consist of a panel discussion about road rage. Jack suggested perhaps something associated with the Bikeway anniversary. Christopher thought we could invite Alan McClennen, who was head of the planning department and one of the main advocates for the project, to give a lecture on the process of advocating for and building the Minuteman Bikeway. Jack will check with Alan and Christopher will check with the Common Ground and both will report at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Dates. We briefly discussed what day of the week to hold our future meetings. We decided to keep it the third Wednesday of the month with exceptions in July, when there will be no meeting and in September when we would like to have a meeting right before Town Day rather than after.

Upcoming Tri-Town Bicycle Committee meeting. The next Tri-Town meeting will be on November 19 in Lexington. The venue is yet to be announced.

Report on the Arlington Heights Walkshop. Jack reported on the event. He told us that all the street fixtures have been freshly painted. Attendees looked at the configuration of the sidewalks and other public accommodations for the purpose of determining what can be improved. Jack was impressed with the number of people who would like to see more and better bicycle facilities. Some of the other ideas presented included additional benches and public WiFi.

American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Tour. AASHTO is planning a tour of the Minuteman Bikeway as a supplement to their national meeting this fall. There will be 30-50 planners touring the Bikeway from end to end. Jack, Scott and Christopher are participating in planning and guiding the event.

Other matters.

Hubway vs. Zagster. TAC and ABAC have created a working group that will meet with MAPC, Hubway and Zagster to determine what system we want to buy into for Arlington. Zagster seems much cheaper but Hubway is proposing a sponsored "titled" method of reducing the price

to the Town which involves some kind of sponsorship for the stations. Most of the attendees would like Hubway to expand to Arlington because of interoperability with Boston and Cambridge. Nat told us that there should be a decision on which system Arlington will sign up with sometime next month.

\*The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

\*A vote of the board was taken.

These minutes submitted by Stephan Miller